



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA MEASURES FIELD CROPS PLANTED IN 2000

In 1999, most regions in New England experienced extremely dry growing conditions. All counties in New England were either declared disaster areas or contiguous to a disaster area by the end of the crop year. This year, farm operators are hoping that Mother Nature will be more cooperative. Above average temperatures have been prominent across the states so far this spring. As fields dry out, growers are getting an early start on land preparations for planting.

How will the warm conditions and other factors affect New England agriculture? To gather the most accurate information about the 2000 crop situation, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will be asking farmers about their crops in the June Agricultural Survey. The survey measures field corn, potato, oat and barley plantings, as well as hay acreage intended for harvest. It also measures grain stocks and helps to establish official statistics for the number of farms, and land in farms.

"This annual USDA survey is done nationwide. It is important that New England farmers participate in the June Agricultural Survey so that our region is properly represented. The survey provides information crucial for reliable estimates of crops, farm numbers and farm acreage in New England. Nationwide, the crop estimates also provide producers with vital information about crop supplies, as well as market movements and trends. Policy makers and regulators read and use the survey data because they know it is complete and accurate," states Aubrey Davis, Director of the New England field office in Concord, New Hampshire. He emphasized that like all surveys conducted by the Service, farmers' responses are kept confidential and used only when combined with those of other respondents.

Approximately 1,200 New England farmers are being asked to participate in this voluntary study. Interviewers will be asking for their help from May 30 through June 14. Most producers selected for the survey will receive a letter requesting their help in this important project. The national survey results will be available in the **Acreage** report from Washington, DC on June 30, at 8:30 am and the **Crop Production** report on July 12 (for potatoes). Both reports are available on the Internet within a few minutes of the scheduled release time. New England statistics are re-printed in the July issue of the **Ag Review** (a monthly newsletter from the Concord field office). The **Ag Review** is available on the Internet monthly, but complimentary copies are also mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It is located in Concord, NH, and is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.]

For More Information Contact: Sharon Slayton or Aubrey Davis at 1-800-642-9571.